GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes to set up an empowered commission to rehabilitate the survivors and victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the latest position of the on-going schemes relating to the welfare of Bhopal Gas Victims?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th DECEMBER, 2008.

(a) to (c): As decided by the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to oversee the matters related to Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, in their meeting held on 11th June, 2008, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals prepared a Draft Proposal on the Terms of Reference, modalities, functions, powers, headquarters and other related requirements for setting up of the proposed Empowered Commission on Rehabilitation of the Victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, of December, 1984. After approval of the Chairman of the GoM, the proposal for setting up of the Empowered Commission with draft Terms of Reference covering, inter alia, medical, social, economic and environmental rehabilitation was circulated to the Ministries/ Departments concerned of the Government of India and also to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for their views/ comments. The views/comments from all the Ministries/Departments except Department of Legal Affairs have been received in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

(d) The latest position of the on-going schemes relating to welfare of Bhopal Gas Victims of 1984 is as under:

Under the medical rehabilitation plan 7 hospitals, 5 civil dispensaries and 2 poly clinics and 3 dispensaries each of the Homeopathy, Unani and Indian Medical Systems are engaged in the medical care and treatment of the victims residing in 36 gas affected wards of Bhopal. In addition, 3 more hospitals consisting one each of Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani System of medicines are also functioning. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had taken up 24 studies to evaluate the effects of MIC gas on the victims. The ICMR closed its research work in 1993-94 and the team of Scientists engaged in this work had continued to work under the State Government. The Central Government had provided a Corpus Fund of Rs.5 crore to continue this work.

Under the economic rehabilitation, training was provided to the youth of gas affected wards, 42 work-sheds and 152 industrial sheds were constructed for providing employment opportunities in the Units set up in these sheds.

Under the social rehabilitation plan 2468 houses were constructed and allotted to the widows of the gas victims besides providing initial relief measures like pensions to about 1077 widows, distribution of milk to the lactating mothers and the children, etc.

Under the environmental rehabilitation, construction of drains, plantation of trees and augmentation of safe drinking water supply was taken up. In April, 2006, Government of India had sanctioned money for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sanctioned Rs.14.18 crore to the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to the 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing the Scheme.